

# Joe's Corner

—By Joe Sheehan, Hydrometeorological Technician

## "November, 1999"

**T**he month of November 1999 was unusually mild across the north central U.S. with temperatures averaging 8 to 10 degrees above normal. A fast west to east jet stream across the eastern Pacific into southern Canada kept the arctic air bottled up over-Canada. Also, persistent dry air in the lower and middle layers of the atmosphere kept skies clear much of the month which meant plenty of sun to help warm temperatures.

In Huron South Dakota, every day of the month had average temperatures that were above normal. In Sioux Falls South Dakota and Sioux City Iowa, only two days saw temperatures average below normal, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. In Mitchell South Dakota, only one day, November 2<sup>nd</sup> was below the daily normal.

It was also a very dry month across South Dakota with only a trace of precipitation reported in Aberdeen and 0.05 inches at both Huron and Sioux Falls. The continued lack of precipitation that began at the beginning of August, led to very dry vegetation. Several fires were reported across the region during October and November.

In Sioux Falls, the average temperature for November 1999 was 42.1 degrees making it the warmest November of the 20th Century. The previous warmest November had been 41.6 degrees set in 1899. The average daily maximum of 56.7 degrees in November 1999 smashed the previous record of 54.4 degrees set in 1899. The average daily minimum temperature of 27.4 degrees did not make the top ten list of warmest November minimums. The high temperature on the 8<sup>th</sup> of 81 degrees was the first recorded 80 degree day in the month of November since records began in the 1890s. The previous warmest November day in Sioux Falls had been 79 degrees set on November 4, 1909. Record high temperatures were set on four days during the month.



MR. JOE SHEEHAN

### November 1999 Record High

81 degrees on 8<sup>th</sup>  
73 degrees on 9<sup>th</sup>  
68 degrees on 12<sup>th</sup>  
79 degrees on 13<sup>th</sup>

### Previous Record for Date

74 degrees in 1931  
69 degrees in 1937  
66 degrees in 1954 and 1971  
69 degrees in 1981

### Normal High for Date

48 degrees  
47 degrees  
45 degrees  
45 degrees

In Huron, the average temperature for the month of November 1999 was 42.3 degrees breaking by more than a degree the previous warmest November of 41.0 degrees set in 1899. The average daily high temperature was 56.8 degrees and the average daily minimum temperature was 27.8 degrees. The high temperature of 86 degrees on the 8<sup>th</sup> is the first recorded occurrence of 80 degree heat since records began in the 1880s. The previous warmest November day in Huron was 79 degrees set on Novem-

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ber 8, 1931. Record high temperatures were set on four days during the month.

<u>November 1999 Record High</u>	<u>Previous Record for Date</u>	<u>Normal High for Date</u>
72 degrees on 7 <sup>th</sup>	68 degrees in 1931	48 degrees
86 degrees on 8 <sup>th</sup>	79 degrees in 1931	47 degrees
71 degrees on 11 <sup>th</sup>	70 degrees in 1887	46 degrees
75 degrees on 13 <sup>th</sup>	68 degrees in 1981	44 degrees

In Sioux City, the average temperature for November 1999 was 44.2 degrees which broke the previous warmest November of 43.4 degrees set in 1899. The average daily maximum temperature was 58.1 degrees and the average daily minimum was 30.2 degrees. The high temperature of 81 degrees on the 8<sup>th</sup> equaled the warmest November day on the record books set on November 3, 1978. Record highs in Sioux City were broken or tied on three days during the month.

<u>November 1999 Record High</u>	<u>Previous Record for Date</u>	<u>Normal High for Date</u>
81 degrees on 8 <sup>th</sup>	78 degrees in 1931	51 degrees
73 degrees on 9 <sup>th</sup>	tied 73 degrees in 1937	50 degrees
78 degrees on 13 <sup>th</sup>	71 degrees in 1944	48 degrees

November 1999 statistics for South Dakota communities and including Sioux City, Iowa, follow...

<u>City</u>	<u>November 1999 Average Temperature</u>	<u>Departure from Normal</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Previous or Current Warmest November</u>
Rapid City	44.4 degrees	+ 9.6 degrees	unknown	unknown
Pierre	44.3 degrees	+10.2 degrees	unknown	unknown
Sioux City	44.2 degrees	+ 7.8 degrees	1 <sup>st</sup> warmest	43.4 in 1899
Mitchell	43.8 degrees	+ 9.7 degrees	unknown	unknown
Huron	42.3 degrees	+ 9.9 degrees	1 <sup>st</sup> warmest	41.0 in 1899
Sioux Falls	42.1 degrees	+ 9.1 degrees	1 <sup>st</sup> warmest	41.6 in 1899
Watertown	39.7 degrees	+ 8.9 degrees	unknown	unknown
Aberdeen	38.7 degrees	+ 8.4 degrees	2 <sup>nd</sup> warmest	40.7 in 1923
Mobridge	41.1 degrees	+9.4 degrees	unknown	unknown

Record warmth for both the day and month occurred on the 8<sup>th</sup> across much of South Dakota. Huron and Sioux Falls recorded their first 80 degree warmth for the month of November. The high temperature of 89 degrees in Kennebec, South Dakota is the warmest November reading ever recorded in the state. Some of the high temperatures from November 8, 1999, include the follow-

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ing:...

<u>City</u>	<u>Temperature</u>	
Mobridge	76 degrees	
Aberdeen	77 degrees	
Watertown	77 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Sioux Falls	81 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Mitchell	82 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Rapid City	83 degrees	(also 83 degrees previous day and both are warmest November temperatures)
Huron	86 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Pierre	87 degrees	(warmest November temperature)
Kennebec	89 degrees	(warmest November temperature)